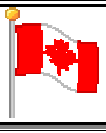
The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

October 2004 Volume 65 Number 8
club web site is www.halifax-arc.org

Happy Hallowe'en



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421
See the HARC Web site at: http://www.halifax-arc.org

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Rick Gardiner, VE1RGG		ve1rgg@rac.ca
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@rac.ca
Member at Large, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK		ve1phk@rac.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH 832-3660 ve1wph@rac.ca
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager -
Bob Burns, VE1VCK 865-9414 ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP 466-8723 dgeorge@is.dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT 865-8567 ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC 477-7081 tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC 477-7081 tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Web page – Rob Ewert, VE1KS, 826-1705 ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD 823-2024 dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Callbook 04 Editor Howard Dickson, VE1DHD 823-2024 dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord – David Musgrave, VE1EDA 435-4333 ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market 2004 Chair'man – NEEDED
Field Day coordinator – NEEDED
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM, 860-1580 ve1wjm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Joe MacPherson, VE1CH ve1ch @rac.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia – Bev Reynolds, VE1TL

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.
This will be the rotation.
If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.

Oct.	17	Dave	VE1EDA
Oct.	24	Charles	VE1MCR
Oct.	31	Chris	VA1CDB
Nov.	7	Herb	VE1HX
Nov.	14	Pierre	VE1PTR

Deadline for submissions to the November Reflector is Saturday, Nov. 6, 2004

The HRM EMO/ham Advisory Committee Web page is at www.ve1hre.ca

The **General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, October 20, 2004 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola streets). The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. Our program will be Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH on CHU and time keeping..

Guests are welcome.

The **Basic ham course** this fall is being coordinated by Howard Dickson, VE1DHD.
The course began Sept. 9, 2004.
Contact him at 823-2024,
or dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca

GENERAL INFORMATION

TAKE-15 NET: Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR/VHF

CLUB REPEATERS:
VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz +
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:
VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS accessible through the LAN

Industry Canada has published Notice to solicit public comments on the RAC proposal to drop Morse Code and change the exam structure. Respondents have 60 days to file comments from the date of the Notice, 28 August, 2004. – See Sept. Reflector

Events for Your '04 Calendar

EMO workshop – TBA

October – VHF/UHF Contest

October 16 – Greenwood Fleamarket

October 16 – JOTA – Camp Harris

December 15 - Christmas party

June 4, 2005 – DownEast Flea Market

August 13&14,. 2005 -MS Bike Tour

The 6th annual Search & Rescue Competition will take place Sept. 9 to 11, **2005**. Club co-ordinators for a special event station are Dick, VE1AI, and Scott, VE1QD.

If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?

16th Annual **Greenwood Amateur Radio and Electronics Flea Market**. It will be held, as in previous years, in the Greenwood Community Centre, on Saturday the 16th of October from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Doors open to sellers at 8:00 am. Entry is $3.00, no charge for tables.

The format and content of the function will basically be as in previous years.

Come and enjoy our famous Bratwurst sausage in a bun!

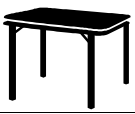
Burt Amero VE1AMA will be taking bookings for tables.

If your members have any questions or suggestions, please contact me or one of the members listed below.

We look forward to meeting you all at Greenwood

Dave McHattie VE1RCN
Flea Market Chairman 2004
(902) 765-9200
ve1rcn@rac.ca

Burt Amero VE1AMA
"Table Guy"
(902) 847-7073
ve1ama@rac.ca



David, VE1EDA conducts an **EMO NET** each Sunday evening at 1930 local (7:30 PM).
The goal of the net is to keep all Amateur's informed on any news about EMO and to increase the interest in emergency preparedness.

An emergency preparedness event is being planned.
Tune into the Net
for more information.

The **International Lighthouse/ Lightship Weekend** took place 21/22 August 2004 when there were 370 stations QRV from lighthouses and lightships in 52 countries.

Next year's weekend will be from 0001 UTC on Saturday 20 August until 2359 UTC on Sunday 21 August 2005.

So make a note in your diary to join us in the fun of the weekend and let us make it 400 stations at lighthouses and lightships.

73 Mike GM4SUC Organiser and coordinator.

The **Club station** is a good space for ham radio activities but **please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK (E-mail ve1phk@rac.ca) This is to prevent the disappointment of arriving at the Club Station and finding someone else has booked it for the same time you wanted to use it. **So booking with Pat is a must!!**

This year the ARRL is celebrating its 90th anniversary

Cara and Peter (VE9NPS) Service announce the arrival of **CALLUM PETER ALEXANDER SERVICE**. Callum arrived at 2118 on Sunday 12 September 2004, weighing 7lbs 11oz.

A grandson for Nigel, VE1NPS

A **Basic Ham Class** 2004/2005 is being run by HARC

Where: the Training Room at the Knightsridge Fire Hall in Clayton Park
When: Thursday evenings at 7PM (1900 hours)

A CW class: 11 members of the "basic" class have indicated CW interest. Gary, VE1RGB, has agreed to teach the CW course on Saturday mornings.
Start date is yet to be determined

A ham radio emergency preparedness event is being planned for a Saturday sometime between now and March. This will be a chance to practice responding to a surprise callout (works best if you keep an "emergency response kit" always in readiness). It will also be an opportunity to hone our skills; become familiar with the EOC's equipment & setup; plan what to do when 2m transmissions interfere with hospital equipment or with air to ground communications with a hovering helicopter. **Plan to take part.** Barry has asked Tom, VE1GTC, to do most of the planning **Contact Tom, VE1GTC, to be a participant**

Anderson Powerpole connectors are now **sold out**. If you have not already converted all your gear to Powerpole connectors you should consider doing so. Place orders with Tom Caithness, VE1GTC by E-mail at: tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

If there is enough demand we will order more. We need to order in lots of over 200 to be able to offer them at the best price. Please place orders by November so we can estimate how many more to buy. Tom, VE1GTC still has some available from another source but we **may** need to charge up to $1.50 (normally $1.25) each (for a red and black connector for one complete end). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE October 2004

I would like to welcome the course participants to the club and hope they will attend the meetings and meet Amateur operators with diverse interests. There are over 20 new associate members and hope all club members will help with their education be it in the class room or in everyday operating and teaching about fascinating aspects of our hobby.

I am sure you are now aware of the Annual General Meeting coming up in November and hope you have given thought to how you can help the club by being on the executive or helping the new executive in some small capacity.

Some of the questions to be answered in the near future are:
Will there be a Flea Market in 2005?? We need a committee that should be in place and starting planning in November.
Will there be a Field Day in 2005???? We need a chairman and several committees to begin planning now. We have a reputation to uphold and there is getting to be some serious competition in the 2A class in Canada. Our object is to still have fun while being competitive.

Some other questions are being asked about club participation in the Lighthouse weekend, Islands on the Air contest and perhaps other contesting events or field day style events. One that I particularly enjoy is going to a rare grid square for a VHF/UHF contest, you may not have propagation and spend a lot of time listening to static but it is in the fresh air and usually good weather at a location you have not been before.

Consider what we as a club should be doing to promote different aspects of the hobby. Many new Amateurs have a mistaken impression that Amateur Radio is 2M FM on repeaters and occasionally simplex with IRLP or Echolink thrown in. Remember Basic licensees can operate all Amateur bands above 30 MHz which includes sporadic E on 6M (50 MHz) and some times 2M (144 MHz) on SSB. Also Tropospheric ducting in the spring and fall as well as other times can give spectacular openings on 2M, 70 cm (430 MHZ) and 23 cm (1296 MHz) on SSB. Antennas are fairly small and CW and SSB are the usual weak signal modes. Satellite operation is open to Basic licensees with several easy to work Amateur satellites in orbit as well as the possibility to speak with an astronaut on the ISS.

There are many other aspects of the hobby open to Basic licensees and of course if you put a little effort into learning CW then the whole world of HF is open to you with its many facets of operation. CW is not going away. The future will probably hold a licensing scheme for HF without CW but the current proposals call for more questions on operating and perhaps separate exams for regulations with much higher pass marks on both exams at the same time.

I hope you have had a good Thanksgiving weekend and can make it out to the October meeting.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

NET CONTROLLERS

We need more people to be net controllers for the Take-15 net on Sunday evenings. This is a simple job that any one can do and is good practice for EMO purposes when you may be required to lead a net. Currently the rotation is about once every 2 months but with a few more this will stretch out to 3 months. How about it, 4 times a year is not much. Please consider donating an hours time to the club on a Sunday evening a few times a year.

The Senior Amateur Radio Association (SARA), located at the Red Cross Headquarters, Emergency Communications Room, is seeking new members. SARA assists the Red Cross with Emergency Radio Communications on the Amateur and other authorized bands. The amateur facilities, HF and VHF in particular, are there to be freely used by members. Other facilities are also available on a more limited basis. We would like to invite especially, any amateurs who reside in locations which inhibit their operating activities but who still would like to continue operating. Interested amateurs may contact SARA through any one of its members, particularly VE1BSK, Rod, who may be contacted at: VE1BSK@RAC.CA or by phone at 443-7181.

DX n' HF

This month for the DX column we are going to talk about

CONTESTING on HF.

This is prime Contest Season.

There are many hundreds of Contests on the air. There is one or more every weekend, some big, some small. Some people hate them, others thrive on them. One thing I firmly believe is that contesting is the single biggest driving force that is pushing the technological development of our equipment. To be in the very top scores you need very good equipment and good skills.

However to have fun, and that is what it is all about, you just need your station, and some time. We all have that.

Contesting your station has many positive results. You can quickly add countries to your DXCC (DX Century Club) in a DX contest, new states for WAS (Worked All States), etc. etc. This will help your work towards certificates that you are probably and should be working on. (Certificate hunting will be the subject of a club meeting entertainment in the future).

I want to stress that in order to have fun, just get in there and do it. You don't have to be an world class expert to have fun. You are competing with yourself or perhaps you may challenge a friend. Contesters love to work all stations, those who are in the contest big time and also those who only work the contest for a short time to have fun and give the other stations some points. Both are very important,

The object of each contest is to work as many stations as possible, in as many different areas as possible and often, as many bands as possible, in a given time period (usually a weekend). Scores are calculated by totally the number of QSO's you make and multiplying that number by the number of areas that you have worked. The multiplier is very important for sure.

Each contest is sponsored by some organization, and the rules for each contest are usually published in the magazines (CQ, QST), or available on the www, or just ask a club member.

A contact in a contest is brief and fast. Stations usually exchange signal reports and province or state or a zone number relating to your geographical location. Here in Nova Scotia we are in Zone 05 for CQ contests, Zone 09 for the less popular IARU contest. Sometimes the exchange is a serial number of the number of stations that you have worked in the contest starting with 001. For some ARRL contests the exchange is your ARRL section (Maritime for us). For example in the CQ WW SSB (CQ World Wide Single Sideband) contest (Oct 30 & 31 this year) you would send 5905 to a station and you would receive a report like 5914 for someone in England for example. It is important that you know what to send and also what to expect. If you don't know, simply ask one of the stations you encounter in the contest, what he needs for an exchange from you. Most will tell you simply and politely. Because the exchange is so brief and formatted, for CW contests you can normally send and receive at speeds you never thought possible, as you have a good idea of what is being sent to you. Calls are short and the exchange brief, send only what is necessary, no extra info, names or good luck wishes. Short and simple.

For the big contests, such as CQWW SSB and CW and the ARRL DX SSB and CW contests many people travel to exotic locations to activate these places to hand out contacts from places that may not have much activity. At the same time it makes them rare and very sought after so their QSO rate it much much higher that if they had stayed home in New York or wherever.

There are many smaller contests, each with their own rules. There are RTTY contests, VHF/UHF contests, NSARA contest, and our big one for the club each year, which is Field Day, sponsored by ARRL.

Several of our club members will be going to VE1JF in Digby county for the annual CQWW SSB contest at the end of the month. Jim has built a super station and it is a treat to experience. We will be competing in a muti-operator catagory, whereas from home you operate and compete with others who are in the Single Operator Catagory. Jim is always looking for skilled operators, and the way to develop your skill is to get in a contest and experience it and have fun. You never know how much fun it is until you try it.

The best HF conditions are always in the spring and fall seasons. This is the time to make preparations, pick out a couple contests, and make your plans. If you are on the air and hear a contest going full force, jump in and help out some of the stations, they will be more than pleased to work a VE1. Have fun. I do.

Richard E. (Dick) Grantham, VE1AI

A new site for APRS tracking info, like findu.com new and interesting.
http://aprsworld.net/

73 Ron, VE1AIC

<u>Tech Support:</u> A Dell technician received a call from a customer who was enraged because his computer had told him he was "bad and an invalid." The tech explained that the computer's "bad command" and "invalid" responses shouldn't be taken personally.

WANTED

Any one who will stand for the HARC positions of:

2nd Vice President

and

Treasurer

Or

Any of the Executive positions.

All the standard benefits will apply:

- **Membership in a historic club**
- **Work with the elite of amateur radio**
- **Untold hours of fun and satisfaction**
- **Win the gratitude of 100's of members**
- **Gain valuable experience**

Contact the Chairman of the Nominating Committee to make a nomination:

VE1PQ (ve1pq@rac.ca) Bob Swinwood

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 40, October 8, 2004

Radio Amateurs of Canada President, First VP resign: Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has announced the resignations of President Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, and First Vice President Bob Nash, VE3KZ. "Both officers have been hospitalized with severe, heart-related problems," an RAC bulletin said October 6. "The RAC Board of Directors and Executive thank them both for their dedicated service to Amateur Radio and RAC and are confident that all radio amateurs wish them a full recovery and fast return to the amateur bands." Both resignations were effective immediately. Lamoureux--who also serves as ARISS-Canada coordinator--was a guest at the ARRL Board of Directors meeting in July. "We are distressed to hear this news and wish Daniel and Bob rapid recoveries," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. The RAC Board will convene a special meeting as soon as possible to deal with the vacancies.

Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Monthly Meeting of Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1939 with 35 members in attendance.

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) – President; Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) – First Vice-president; Second Vice-president – Rick Gardner (VE1RGG); Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) – Secretary; John Goodwin (VE1CDD) – Treasurer; Pat Kavanaugh (VE1PHK) – Station Manager; Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) – Member at Large.

Silent Keys: None reported.

Guests: Bill (VE1WG) and Pat (VE1PAT) Gillis from Moncton N. B.; and Tom Estabrooks (VE1TJE) and spouse Flora from Dartmouth.

Minutes of the monthly meeting of 16 June, 2004:-
Approval of the minutes of the June Monthly Meeting as published in the September 2004 Reflector was moved by Joe (VE1CH) and seconded by Dave (VE1EDA). Motion carried.

Executive Reports:

Treasurer's – John (VE1CDD) reported a bank balance of $7,061.96 as of September 16th. The Club finances are in excellent shape in spite of Field Day being $511.20 over budget. Approval of the Treasurer's report was moved by Tom (VE1TA) and seconded by Jim (VE1SFX). With no further discussion, the motion carried. Copy of the monthly report of the Treasurer is appended to the hard-copy of these minutes.

Secretary – Howard (VE1DHD) reported on a successful start to the 2004/2005 Basic Ham Class that is being run by HARC. The registration number had risen to 21 and so the Club Station is no longer a reasonable venue for the classes. Tom (VE1GTC) managed to secure the Training Room at the Knightsridge Fire Hall in Clayton Park and so most of the classes will be held there. This year the class contains a number of couples with off-shore sailing interests, as well as several from the Ground Search and Rescue team. Eleven members of the class have indicated an interest in CW, and Gary (VE1RGB) has agreed to teach the CW course on Saturday mornings.

President – President Bill reported on the September meeting of the Club Executive. Substantive issues dealt with included:

1. Request to release the 2004 Callbook in pdf format on a CD-ROM. After a lengthy discussion, the Executive decided not to proceed with a CD release based on the fact that over a quarter of the books remain to be sold;
2. Field Day 2003 – it has come to light that the ARRL had incorrectly awarded the 2-Alpha Canadian highest score to the Richmond BC club; the actual winner was the Vancouver Emergency Community Telecommunications Organisation (VECTOR). The decision was made to pay to have the Canadian 2-Alpha plaque returned to Halifax, to replace the Richmond award designation with that of VECTOR, and to ship the plaque back to BC to the VECTOR group. Bill anticipates, based on the HARC 2-Alpha score in 2004, that we will once again regain control of the plaque this year.
3. Repeaters – Bill reported that the 70 cm VE1PSR repeater had somehow repaired itself, while the 6 meter VE1PSR repeater still has a desensitivity problem that will be address in the near future. There are also some controller programming errors that have been identified and will soon be fixed.

First Vice-president – Fraser (VE1WO) reported on the issue of Estate Sales of Ham equipment, indicating that it was the decision of the Executive to get out of direct sales of Ham gear for the estates of deceased Hams. Rather, the Club will establish a committee – to be chaired by Fraser – to provide advice on the value of Ham equipment for the surviving spouse and/or the estate. Tom (VE1TA) and Peter (VE1PJW) both agreed to work with Fraser on this committee.

Second Vice-president - Rick (VE1RGG) informed the membership that Rob (VE1KS) would be the guest speaker for the evening, talking about his experiences assisting with the televising of the Olympic Games in Athens. The door prize for the evening was a mini-tool set.

Committee Reports:

Search & Rescue – Dave (VE1AJP) reported a quiet time for S&R. He did mention though that the Team was in the process of testing a new GPS tracing system for use in Search & Rescue activities.

EMO – Dave (VE1AJP) reported a quiet period for EMO as well. Tom (VE1GTC) reported that there will be a training exercise for the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Group later this year or early in 2005. The planning committee for the exercise consists of: Tom (VE1GTC) as Chair; Joe (VE1CH); Dave (VE1AJP) and Bill (VE1MR). The exercise will involve other clubs in Nova Scotia, as well as HRM hospital sites, and will use both tactical and formal directed nets. One of the main objectives of the exercise will be to test the "Callout System", so the exact time and date of the event will be kept secret.

Callbook Sales – Fraser reported 860 books sold, with 340 remaining to be sold.

Christmas Party – Tom reported that the planning for the Christmas party was underway for December 15th. The location will be determined and announced soon.

Ham Breakfast – Bill reported that Lynn (VE1ENT) has agreed to organise the 2005 Ham Breakfast. It

(Continued on page 7)

Minutes (Continued from page 6)
will be held at the Steak & Stein on Young St. in mid to late February. The exact date will be announce soon.

Lighthouse Weekend – Scott (VE1QD) reported on a successful weekend from the Old Red Schoolhouse near the Peggy's Cove Lighthouse. A number of Club members assisted with the set-up, operating and tear-down. Although propagation on the weekend of August 22nd was terrible, the group made 175 contacts, including contacts with a number of lighthouses and lightships; about a quarter of the contacts made were on CW thanks to Gary (VE1RGB). A special full-colour QSL card has been prepared for this event. The Club tri-bander was mounted atop the EMO Mobile Repeater tower for 10, 15 and 20 meters, and an inverted-"V" dipole for 40 meters was slung between the roof of the school and a nearby shed. Scott's one recommended is for a small linear amplifier in 2005. Spud (VE1BC) also reported on his activities on Lighthouse Weekend at the Gilbert's Cove Lighthouse.

DX-Forum – Scott (VE1QD) reported on a very successful DX Forum on Saturday August 7th at his home on Moser Island in St. Margaret's Bay, with 20 participants crowed into his living room because of the morning rain. The skies cleared at noon in time for a BBQ lunch. For more information on this event and other Club DX activity, please see page 4 in the September Reflector.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business:

Nominating Committee – after some discussion, Bob (VE1PQ) agreed to let his name stand for chair of the nominating committee. Howard (VE1DHD) moved the nomination of Bob (VE1PQ) and this was seconded by Tom (VE1GTC). With no other nominations, it was moved by Dave (VE1NN) that nominations cease – seconded by Tom (VE1TA). Bob was declared the chair of the Nominating Committee by acclamation. Bob will select his committee members. Peter (VE1PJW) agreed to help.

The following have agreed to let their names stand for office in 2005: President (VE1MR – Bill); Secretary (VE1DHD – Howard); First V-P (VE1WO – Fraser); Station Manager (VE1PHK – Pat); Member-at-Large (VE1GTC – Tom).

Auditor – no one was willing to volunteer for the position of Auditor, so the President will attempt, over the next week or so, to find one. President Bill reminded members that the Club fiscal year ends on September 30th and the books need to be audited by the November AGM.

NSARA Report – Bill reported that with the recent resignation of Barry (VE1TRI) and his move to Crosslake Manitoba, a new NSARA representative needs to be found. Joe (VE1CH) agreed to take on this responsibility on behalf of the Club.

Announcements:

Seminars to Local Sailing Clubs – Howard (VE1DHD) suggested that because of time and resource constraints, the best approach to informing the sailing community of the role that Amateur Radio can play in long-distance communication might best be accomplished, as it was in the spring of 2004, by collaborating with the Off-shore Sailing Program of the Nova Scotia Power and Sail Squadron.

Passing of Kay Marshall – Dave (VE1AJP) informed the members of the passing of Kay Marshall, spouse of Bernie (VE1WGS) of Wellington NS. Kay had been the Ground Search & Rescue Alarm Operator for many years.

RAC – President Bill introduced Bill Gillis (VE1WG) as one of the nominees for the position of RAC Atlantic Region Director. Bill outlined his concerns with the current situation at RAC and indicated his commitment to openness if elected as Director.

Door Prize - was a mini-tool set and was won by Pat (VE1PHK).

50:50 Draw – was won by George (VE1GAB).

The meeting ended at 2110.

Guest Speaker – Rob (VE1KS) gave an excellent talk, with great pictures, on his experiences working on the television side of things at the Olympic Games in Athens.

Respectfully submitted by
Howard Dickson, VE1DHD

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 34 August 27, 2004
Varberg Radio SAQ at Grimeton, Sweden, has been added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List. The only remaining pre-electronic transmitter for transatlantic work, SAQ is maintained in perfect working order. On 2004 Alexanderson Day July 4, the 80-year-old 200 kW Alexanderson alternator--with its multiple-tuned antenna--transmitted a celebration message on 17.2 kHz. The message was copied in Europe and on the East Coast of the US. Return channels included Amateur Radio station SA6Q at the Grimeton site and the Internet. UNESCO said the 1920s-vintage radio station in southern Sweden is an exceptionally well-preserved monument to early transatlantic wireless commnuication. The site includes the transmitter equipment and its associated antenna system, comprised of six 127-meter (approximately 417 foot) steel towers and staff housing. There's more information on the SAQ Web site <http://www.alexander.n.se/>.--Carl Henrik Walde, SM5BF

Men are like a fine wine. They start out as grapes, and it's up to women to stomp the crap out of them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.

HAPPENINGS AT VE1PSR

This is an update on what I reported last month. Tom, VE1TA and I were up to the site to look at some linking problems and took the time to reload new operating software into the controller and remove the dead UHF repeater. A few days later I was up to the site to investigate an open squelch problem on the VHF repeater. In the meantime I retuned the UHF repeater at home and reinstalled it. I found what I suspect was the problem with the VHF repeater and corrected the problem by disassembling, retensioning interconnect points and reassembling the receiver. The VHF and UHF repeaters both seem to be working fine and the new software seems to be bug free now. Time will tell if all is fine. This is the first major work on the VHF repeater hardware in 3 years so not too bad at all. While at the site we quickly looked at the 6M repeater, found a blown fuse, replaced it and found the transmitter stuck on so we pulled the plug. I will be looking at the 6M repeater in the next month or so.

73 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

OPPORTUNITY

There is an opportunity to learn about the gear in the EMO Emergency Operations Comms room. The gear is checked out each Saturday morning during the hours of 0900 to 1100 at the Eric Spicer Building in Dartmouth. By helping with this checkout you can familiarize yourself with the equipment available and perhaps make some suggestions for improvement. This task is carried out under the auspices of the Dartmouth ARC but you do not have to be a member to help out. Take an hour or two and learn the gear you may be called on to use in an emergency

Planning for the Inevitable

by Howard Dickson – VE1DHD

Have you ever thought about what your family would do with all of your Ham gear if something were to happen to you? Do they have any idea of the true worth of the equipment that you have amassed? Apparently not, because often times it is literally given away at bargain-basement prices to the first person to come along. This is clearly not an easy thing to discuss with your loved ones, and the Halifax Amateur Radio Club has often been called upon to assist in the sale of Ham equipment for a spouse or an estate. The Club now has so much estate equipment on consignment that it has become a significant burden on the few who cart it from flea market to flea market in the hopes of getting a reasonable price for the estate of the former owner. The HARC Executive recently discussed this issue and it was decided that it was inappropriate for the Club to be involved in the brokering of used equipment on behalf of the estates of deceased Hams. However, the Club does recognise the difficult position that surviving family members may encounter in trying to assess the true value of and sell used radio equipment. To assist, HARC has formed a small advisory committee that will provide advice on the valuation of used equipment in such circumstances. Fraser – VE1WO – has agreed to chair this committee.

Another solution to the problem –a route that a number of Club members have decided to take – is to name the Halifax Amateur Radio Club as the beneficiary of all of their radio equipment. This is a wonderful selfless way of supporting your Club, while ensuring that the hobby you love will ultimately benefit others through the use and disposition of your gear.

STATION FOR SALE

In view of my present condition I regret I must give up amateur radio. Therefore I have the following equipment for sale:

1. All band transciever, ICOM 735 with 3 kHz CW filter and an Iambic keyer circuit installed.
2. ICOM a/c Power Supply, (13.8 volts, 20amps) PS 55
3. ICOM AT-500 antenna tuner, (automatic)
4. ICOM IC-2KL/500watts, HF all band Linear Amplifier.
5. IC 2KL Linear Power Supply.
6. BW/TVI filter, model FL10-1500.
7. AEC-SWR 50a Meter
8. Kenwood Phone Patch controller, PC-1A
9. Regulated Power Supply Pyramid Phase III, model #PS12
10. Assorted pieces of equipment such as Desk Microphone Semi Automatic key (BUG). Iambic paddle, Hand keys. Coax cable and assorted pieces of equipment.

Asking price: $2,500.00 complete.

Contact Mel Lever, 434 5250 or e-mail mclever@eastlink.ca

Do you have a radio-oriented story, question, answer, article, notice, picture or letter to the editor that you would like to share by having it published in the HARC Reflector?
Get them to the HARC Reflector editor, Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT (e-mail ve1ent@rac.ca)

RAC's web site is **www.rac.ca**

Radio

From the Columbia Encyclopedia, Second edition, 1950

Wireless telephony & telegraphy are based on studies of electromagnetic waves by James Clark Maxwell and by Heinrich Hertz. The possibility of communication by means of such waves was realized and in 1895, Guglielmo Marconi gave a demonstration of radiotelegraphy.

radiotelephony the transmission of speech and music and not merely of uniform signals began its development with the invention of the diode rectifier tube by Sir John A. Fleming (1904) and the triode amplifier tube by Lee de Forest (1906). Some practical use was made of radio before the First World War, especially in ship-to-shore communication. During the war there were notable developments in radiotelephony between aircraft and ground stations and in determining the position of enemy transmitters by direction finding. Broadcasting of speech and music in regularly scheduled programs for the public was introduced in the United States in 1920 by station KDKA at Pittsburgh, Pen. During the next years with the rapid growth of broadcasting service the manufacture of parts and of complete equipment mushroomed in response to public demand. Particularly in the US the broadcast receiver became a standard household fixture Research & experimentation, zealously both by industry and by radio amateurs resulted in countless technical improvements and in such applications as facsimile television and radar. The basic function of a radio transmitter is to emit from its antenna a magnetic field capable of inducing a voltage in any receiving antenna within its area of radiation. This is accomplished in several stages beginning with an oscillator circuit which generates a voltage of radio frequency (called the carrier wave, carrier current or carrier frequency). Ensuing stages amplify the oscillator output and combine with it the amplified audio frequency signal produced initially at the microphone. Amplitude modulation & frequency modulation are the 2 practical methods of effecting this combination. The final amplifier delivers the modulated carrier to the antenna where this energy is radiated as a magnetic field. Reception takes place in 4 steps - Selection and amplification of the desired carrier, detection or demodulation and amplification of the resulting audio signal and its transformation into a sound by a loudspeaker.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 40, October 8, 2004

Sputnik I anniversary noted: The world changed this week 47 years ago when the Soviet Union successfully launched Sputnik I on October 4, 1957. The world's first artificial satellite was about the size of a basketball and weighed just over 180 pounds. Sputnik I took about 98 minutes to orbit Earth on its elliptical path, and radio amateurs around the world enthusiastically tuned in to monitor its 20 and 40 MHz beacons. The satellite's 1 W transmitter fed four antennas deployed at 35º angles, and three silver-zinc batteries powered it for three weeks. In addition to ushering in a new era of political, military, technological and scientific development, Sputnik's launch marked the start of space exploration and gave rise to the birth of NASA.--NASA

Not everything launched into (or towards) space belongs to government agencies. For information on the CSXT go to web site,

www.civilianspace.com.

Are you up to date with your HARC membership dues?

Yearly rates are as follows:

Full = $25 Associate = $15

Family (2 members) = $35 + $10 for each additional family member at same address (only 1 newsletter)

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 10 March 5, 2004

ARRL RESPONDS TO ARTICLE ON BPL

(Exerts: from ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, to the editor of the Wall Street Journal)

"Any listing of the pros and cons of using power lines to deliver broadband services must mention its major disadvantage: it pollutes the radio spectrum, interfering with nearby radio receivers," Sumner said. "The only known exception is a microwave system being developed by Corridor Systems of Santa Rosa, California."

Sumner pointed out that BPL involves sending wideband RF "over unshielded wires that were not designed for the purpose." Owing to the laws of physics, Sumner continued, these power lines function much like antennas, and BPL signals passing through wires in the vicinity can interfere with radio reception.

"The frequencies in question are used by public safety agencies, the military, aeronautical and maritime services, broadcasters, radio astronomers, radio amateurs and others," Sumner noted. He said BPL system designers have had only limited success in resolving the interference issue by notching certain frequencies. "If BPL causes interference--and it does--the BPL system must be shut down."

Sumner, in his letter to the Wall Street Journal, suggested that there are better choices than BPL, even from the standpoint of business and economics. "Potential investors in broadband delivery alternatives to DSL and cable would be far better off considering the various methods of delivering fiber-to-the-home in densely populated areas," he concluded. "For rural areas, adaptations of wireless LAN technology are generally recognized as offering far more promise than BPL."

ARRL's BPL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc#video> documents HF interference the League has monitored at BPL field test sites.

Who really invented the telegraph machine
From website http://www.thescotsman.co.uk/paperboy.cfm?id=126552003

Courtesy of John Brown (VE1DD)

250 years ago a Scottish inventor penned a theory that led to the electric telegraph and the mobile phone. The problem is, the scientist's identity has never been established. Now, a St Andrews University academic has launched a search for the mystery genius, whose groundbreaking paper was simply signed with the initials "CM, Renfrew" when it was published in The Scots Magazine in 1753.

Professor Colin Vincent, the university's deputy principal, said the largely-forgotten article provided the impetus for a technical leap as important as the invention of the transistor or laser.

He said: "There is no doubt that the mobile phone and the internet are direct descendants of CM's paper." Prof Vincent said the article had described for the first time how electricity could be applied to a wire to create a communication device.

It was published more than 60 years before the invention was first demonstrated, which followed the invention of the battery. When CM put pen to paper, the steam engine had yet to be invented and the Industrial Revolution had still to dawn.

Prof Vincent, a former head of the university's chemistry department, became fascinated with CM when he worked on the development of lithium batteries, used in mobile phones. He believes the inventor deliberately hid his - or her - identity. Previous claims about who CM was have been incorrect.

He said: "CM was clearly someone who understood the technology very well and had access to the latest developments in London. There were many 'gentlemen dabblers' around at the time, such as clergymen and schoolmasters, but we cannot even be sure CM was male."

However, despite CM's revolutionary work, which he termed "signalling at a distance by the use of electricity", he has not been linked with any other scientific research and appears to have sunk back into obscurity.

The author's imagined device, which he referred to as "an expeditious method of conveying intelligence", involved 26 parallel lengths of wire, one for each letter of the alphabet.

In the article, CM described how electric current could be applied to one wire at a time to electrify a ball at the other end. This would cause a piece of paper with the name of that letter to move, so a message could be spelled out. An alternative method, using bells of different pitch, was also proposed.

CM believed that practised operators would be able to recognise the chimes of whole words rather than having to note down each letter.

Prof Vincent said CM's idea derived from his knowledge of friction-based electrostatic generators. While static electricity had been known since 1600, the machines remained the only way of making electricity.

He added CM's achievement was all the more amazing because other scientists experimenting with electricity at the time could not see any use for it in communications.

Dr William Watson, a physician who had "forced a shock" through a wire across Westminster Bridge in London in 1747, wrote: "We are not yet so far advanced in these discoveries to render them conducive to the service of mankind."

Prof Vincent said: "It was a remarkable stroke of inventive genius that took place in the mind of the enigmatic CM. It has led over a period of 250 years to a transformation of society, in a way that could not even have been contemplated in the middle of the 18th century."

The invention of the battery by Alessandro Volta in 1800, enabling the storage of electricity, and the coming of the railways, which required faster communications, prompted a flurry of interest in CM's work.

Although the device was first attempted in France in the 1770s, its practical use was not demonstrated until Sir Francis Ronalds's experiments in London in 1816.

CM's theory was also taken up by other British scientists, such as William Cooke and Charles Wheatstone, in the 1830s, and Samuel Morse in the United States, who invented the Morse Code.

This led to the first transatlantic telegraph being laid in 1857, the telephone 40 years later, and, eventually, the mobile phone.

Prof Vincent, said that he was one of the only people in Scotland to be aware of CM's key contribution to the development of communications.

He added: "The mystery of CM's identity remains, but we know with reasonable certainty that the inventive spark which led to today's internet and mobile phone networks took place in Scotland 250 years ago."

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

The **Incoming QSL Bureau** may have cards for you. If you want them you must have a little money deposited with the Bureau to cover the cost of envelopes, labels, postage & handling. And of course your correct mailing address. Send to the

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The ARRL Amateur Radio Education and Technology Program
http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/
puts ham radio resources, equipment and a curriculum into U.S. classrooms at no cost to schools.

Hmm … Why not a Canadian equivalent?…. -ed.